FOREWORD

More than a decade after the event, questions about the assassination of President Kennedy remain unanswered. The inexorable passing of time and events had begun to blur the details of that tragic day in Dallas. The nagging doubts were present but no longer persisted. The questions were unanswered; soon they would be unasked.

Two events occurred that scattered, perhaps forever, the dust of a decade from the incomplete and almost abandoned puzzle.

The Watergate whirlwind confused a few, toppled a few more, but breathed a bit of the fresh air of change into the lives of millions of Americans. And one man chose to combine the technology of this century with humankind's ancient thirst for the truth. He wrote a book called *The Assassination Tapes* which presented his findings.

This unique contribution to the growing body of literature about the assassination offered new evidence and consequently generated new discussions about the falsity of the Warren Commission Report.

Two years later, a Gallup poll suggested that approximately two hundred million Americans would, if asked, say that they believed that a conspiracy had taken the life of President Kennedy and that the conclusions of the Warren Report were untrue. There is no valid way to assess the role of each participant in the long and difficult struggle for that historical truth. It seems almost offensively unspectacular to say that George O'Toole in his closely reasoned and carefully written work, had played an important part in persuading many in a new generation untouched by previous books.

I began my work in this area during the last days of 1963 in Dallas, Texas. I interviewed many witnesses there during the following year. Had I been armed then with the insight that George O'Toole developed through his intelligent and cautious use of the Psychological Stress Evaluator [PSE] my work would very likely have been more rewarding. Areas that I left unexplored, since no clear pattern of deception appeared to me to be present, would have received greater scrutiny. I do not, of course, mourn my early lack of perception; I celebrate the marriage of science and commitment that George O'Toole arranged.

The PSE is not the elusive and infallible lie detector that arrived in the space age to make jury trials and human reasoning superfluous. If utilized properly, however, it can add to our perception and it can assist in placing statements in a proper context. It can even help to make visible currents that could not easily be perceived by the naked eye. A scientist would hardly offer a definitive opinion as to the possible presence of a strain of bacteria without employing a microscope. The use of that magic device is now commonplace to reveal what the unenhanced eye could not observe.

Each generation of scientists has contributed to the common pool of human knowledge. Few contributions have been more terrifying than the nuclear bomb and devices to determine whether human beings are lying. Yet what science has brought forth the rest of us are left to grapple with. Police and spy organizations utilize the PSE. Major industries use the PSE to secretly test prospective employees. If the PSE is viewed much like a pen or as a rifle, it can be seen as a thing that has no morality of its own but rather as a tool that can be employed for either good or evil purposes. The use of the pen by the *New York Times* to falsify the record in order to defend the Warren Commission Report is repugnant. But that pen in the hands of Bertrand Russell becomes an instrument of truth and logic. How fortunate

we are that a man of openness and integrity first thought to assist his investigation into facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy by the use of the PSE.

George O'Toole studied the many existing tape recorded statements made by witnesses to the event and by witnesses to events that appeared at first to be peripheral to the assassination. During his inquiry he focused on one area that the rest of us had, by and large, missed: the possible role of Buell Wesley Frazier in the November events in Dallas. Frazier had driven Oswald to the Texas School Book Depository that incredible day and had transported Oswald's package. Did that package contain a rifle or curtain rods? How were Frazier's actions assessed by the Dallas authorities? Was Frazier given a polygraph examination that day? George O'Toole, aided by the PSE, explored those questions in depth and if he, one man without the power of subpoena, has been unable to find the relevant answers he has nevertheless posed the relevant questions. The questions require answers. Perhaps the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives, which George O'Toole has briefed, will now help to provide the answers.

I did not know George O'Toole when his book was first published in 1975. I walked through the streets of Manhattan and read the huge advertisements on the buses, in the *New York Times*, at the magazine racks and on the newspaper stands. They dared to proclaim that Oswald was not the lone assassin of President Kennedy. A new, strong voice for the truth was being heard.

Soon, of course, I met him. When we formed the Citizens Commission of Inquiry in Washington, D.C. to work for a serious investigation by the Congress into the assassination he soon became a dear and trusted friend and his advice and wisdom and good humor have constituted a constant in the hard days of frequent disappointments.

It is ironic to pore over yellowing CIA documents initiated a decade ago that were designed to discredit me and to destroy my work and the work of other critics of the Warren Commission and to know that George O'Toole had served as Chief of the Problems Analysis Branch of the Company.

Perhaps even of greater significance than the substantial contribution that *The Assassination Tapes* has made to the body of knowledge is the proof that advanced technology and miracles may co-exist in the latter part of this century. A tape recording may indicate that a witness is telling the truth and a man of impeccable honesty may emerge from the CIA.

Mark Lane

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Washington, D.C.

If you want to get sick, read this new foreword to the paperback edition of The Assassination Tapes. It is vintage Lane.

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